Response to Office Action mailed on: August 9, 2006

## **Amendments to the Claims:**

## **Listing of Claims:**

1 - 19 (Canceled).

20 (Previously amended). An isolated IL-1lp consisting of a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence of nucleotide positions from 118 to 618 in the sense strand of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:4).

21. (Canceled).

22 (Previously amended). The isolated IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 33 consisting of amino acid residues from about 37 to about 203 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:5).

23 - 25 (Canceled).

26 (Previously Amended). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claims, 31, 32 or 33 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

27 (Original). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 26, wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is an epitope tag sequence.

28 (Previously presented). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 26, wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

29-30 (Canceled).

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- 31 (Previously presented). An isolated IL-11p polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA insert of ATCC Deposit No.: 203587.
- 32 (Previously amended). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 31 encoded by the human cDNA insert of ATCC Deposit No. 203587, excluding the first 36 N-terminal amino acid residues.
- 33 (Previously amended). An isolated IL-1lp polypeptide that binds to an IL-18R ECD, but not to an IL-1R ECD, consisting of an amino acid sequence of residues 37 to 203 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:5), or a variant thereof having 1 addition, deletion or conservative substitution.
- 34 (Previously presented). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 33, wherein the variant has 1 additionally substituted amino acid residue.
- 35 (Previously presented). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 33, wherein the variant has 1 deleted amino acid residue.
- 36 (Previously presented). The IL-1lp polypeptide of Claim 33, wherein the variant has 1 conservatively substituted residue.